

August 25, 2008

Dear FFA Advisor;

Each year during the FFA Convention a very small group of students gets a great opportunity. They do an oral presentation to a group of professionals, and when the presentations are all completed and have been scored, they get to interact with those professionals. This happens in the Landscape Design Career Development Event. Each spring I am always amazed by the quality of the designs and presentations and the professional landscapers who serve as judges are equally impressed.

If you include landscape design in your curriculum, I would like to encourage you to have your students participate in the Landscape Design CDE. If you do not include landscape design in your curriculum but have some students interested in landscape design, consider inviting in a guest speaker or mentor who is a landscape design professional to provide some instruction and advice to your students. The Landscape Design CDE requires that each student review the design problem and develop a landscape design which meets the criteria outlined in the material provided to you through the Office of Agricultural Education. All the submitted designs are judged for accuracy and correct use of design elements and all students receive detailed written feedback and comments on their design. The top five designers at the conclusion of the first review round are invited to present their design orally to a panel of three professionals.

Developing a landscape design requires problem solving and analysis skills as the student attempts to meet the client needs. They must be able to integrate site information and constraints with the requirements of plants and the desires of the client. It is also a great tool for reinforcing plant identification as well as measuring and math skills.

As the CDE Coordinator for this event I am more than willing to assist any teacher with questions about this challenging event or to provide a guest lecture about landscape design to your students. In addition, if you would like a printout of the base sheet or an electronic copy of the drawing please let me know. Please contact me if you have any questions or need more information – and let's get those students designing!

Sincerely,



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